

# THE GULF COAST BREEZE.

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Phoenix, Arizona, is said to be the cleanest city in the world. She has splendid streets, with asphalt sidewalks. No one is permitted to spit upon them under a penalty of \$5. The City Attorney was the first person subjected to the fine, and, to his credit, paid up and promised to do so no more.

The French Ministry of Finance recently instituted an inquiry to learn the amount of gold in circulation. It has ascertained that there is \$300,000,000 worth bearing the French stamp in circulation. It is claimed that this is a record amount. It is stated that the United States has \$720,000,000, Germany \$680,000,000, and Great Britain and Russia \$600,000,000.

That belief in lex talionis obtains strongly in New York has been demonstrated by the latest trials for murder. In the Borough of Brooklyn the cowboy Hinz, who shot and killed his brother-in-law, was tried and the jury disagreed, only two men favoring conviction. In Manhattan the jury in the case of Pietro Barcia, tried for killing the man who had slain his father in Italy, also disagreed. In this case only two men were for acquittal. Young Barcia had followed Francesco Cassatta from Italy in pursuit of his vendetta, and was proud of having fulfilled it. Both men will have to be tried again.

The Romany band of gypsies will crown a new queen in Topeka, Kan., on the 22d of May. It will be an unusual event in the United States, and members of the band from every State in the Union, and from foreign countries as well, will be present at the coronation. One thousand gypsies are expected at the ceremony. The young queen will reach her twentieth year May 22, and a law of the tribe prescribes that a sovereign must not be crowned before attaining that age. She is known as Molly Stanley, or, more properly, Molly Stackovitch, and her mother, the former queen, was Sofia Fryer, and for more than forty years reigned as the head of the Romany tribe in Austria. She died several years since. Father Belah Metrovitch, of Chicago, the only Romany priest in the United States, will perform the coronation ceremony, and Miss Minnie Youngs, also of Chicago, a cousin of the young queen, will have the honor of placing the crown on the head of the sovereign.

The marine sentry who gave Captain Sigsbee the first report of the disaster to the Maine is worthy of mention. His task was trifling, perhaps, but he did it with an American spirit of fidelity to his trust. Amid all the excitement, with explosions filling the air with noises that only partly drowned the shrieks of the wounded and dying men, with the ship blazing and filling with water, this marine calmly drew himself up to a salute as the commander of the vessel stumbled against him in the dark and made the formal report of the disaster in the briefest possible terms. This gallant fellow now makes light of his experience, saying that "any Yankee marine would do the same thing." He pays a high but not undeserved tribute to the trustworthiness of the men who go to sea in the American ships of war. The spirit that animates him is that which enabled the American navy in 1812-15 to sweep the Atlantic and gave to the young Republic the command of the seas and a high rank among the world's naval powers. The English papers were inclined to suggest that the disaster may have been due to negligence or lack of discipline on board the ship. The utter improbability of such a slanderous theory is indicated by this display of good order on the decks of the Maine in the first moments of the disaster, when all conditions were ripe for panic and demoralization.

# EVASIVE REPLY

## Sent by Spanish Government

## TO PRESIDENT'S DEMANDS.

### NEITHER ACCEDES NOR DECLINES PROPOSITIONS.

### Makes Counter Argument That Spain, Herself, Be Allowed To Make Terms.

Spain's official reply to President McKinley's last demand in the Cuban situation was received in Washington Thursday night. An anxious party, comprising most of the cabinet and several close friends of the administration, waited until late in the evening in expectation of developments. About half-past 10 o'clock the message began to arrive in cipher, and the work of translation was begun at once. It was, officially stated, however, that no intimation as to the nature of the reply could be divulged at the time.

Among those at the white house where Senator Hanna, Secretary Alger, Secretary Bliss, Assistant Secretary of State Day, who dined with the president; Assistant Secretary of State Adee, to whom was confided the translation of the message; Senator Spooner and Senator Aldrich.

There was an intensely expectant crowd of newspaper correspondents, larger than often gathered at the white house at night, waiting in the lobby outside the president's office. But they were destined to disappointment, for after the telegraph instrument in the adjoining office had steadily clattered for half an hour Mr. Porter, the president's secretary, appeared with the announcement from Secretary Day that it was impossible to translate the message in time to give out any statement at that hour. All those who had been with the president were reticent on leaving the executive mansion, most of them declaring that they had not seen any of the translation of the cipher dispatch, and that they had no idea of its purport.

A special dispatch from Washington to the New York World, timed 2 a. m. Friday, gives the following outline to the note presented by Minister Woodford:

"Spain neither accedes to nor declines President McKinley's Propositions. 'She makes counter argument that Spain should herself be allowed to propose terms as to what should be done regarding her own territory; that the United States should not do so.'"

Both committees of congress dealing with foreign affairs were in session Thursday. The senate committee continued its examination of the report on the Maine and the house committee by a party vote refused to take any action on Cuba till Monday.

The senate committee agreed to and Senator Lodge reported a bill appropriating \$5,000,000 to purchase one or more of the Danish West India islands to be used for naval purposes.

The senate committee had before it Captain Sigsbee, of the ill-fated Maine, and Captain Barker, Secretary Long's naval aide. What these officers told the committee is treated confidentially.

There was a spirited debate in the house Thursday of a partisan nature, and its effect has been to solidify the parties—the republicans to await action by the president and the democrats to force the Cuban question to the front.

The most important action taken by the navy department during the day was the determination to have the naval militia of the several states prepared for immediate service should this be found necessary. The decision was the result of a conference of the naval strategic board.

Letters were sent to the governors and to the adjutants general of the states where there are naval militia organizations, asking them to set in motion the machinery for drilling and equipping the state organizations promptly so they may be ready within a very few hours' notice of a call to arms.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt has charge of all matters pertaining to the naval militia and he feels the response to this request will be hearty and prompt. The officials express hope that there will be a unanimous sentiment on the part of employers to permit such of their men as are members of the militia free opportunity to join their commands.

## BRYAN FAVORS INTERVENTION.

Nebraskan Gives His Views on Request of Associated Press.

A special from Lincoln, Neb., says: Hon. W. J. Bryan made the following statement for the Associated Press Thursday night, in answer to the question whether in his judgment the time had arrived for the United States to intervene in behalf of Cuba and bring the war to an end:

"Yes, the time for intervention has arrived. Humanity demands that we shall act. Cuba lies almost within sight of our shores and the sufferings of her people cannot be ignored unless we as a nation have become so engrossed in money making as to be indifferent to distress."

"Intervention may be accompanied by danger and expense, but existence cannot be separated from responsibility, and responsibility sometimes leads a nation, as well as an individual, into danger. A neighbor must sometimes incur danger for a neighbor, and a friend for a friend."

"War is a terrible thing, and cannot be defended except as a means to an end, and yet it is sometimes the only means by which a necessary end can be secured. The state punishes its own citizens by imprisonment or even death when counsel and persuasion fail. War is the final arbiter between nations when reason and diplomacy are of no avail."

"Spain might not resist intervention. It is to be hoped she would recognize the right of the United States to act, and immediately withdraw from Cuba, but whether she resents intervention or not, the United States must perform a plain duty."

"Spain has only herself to blame for the condition of affairs in Cuba. If she denies to her former subjects the right of war and calls the Cuban army a mob, let her remember the words of Victor Hugo: 'The mob is the human race in misery.' No nation can afford to make its people miserable."

"If the Cubans prefer death to Spanish rule, it must be because Spanish rule has robbed life of joy and hope. If a nation sows the wind it must reap the whirlwind."

## GOV. BLACK IS PATRIOTIC.

Recommends Appropriation For War Fund by New York Legislature.

Governor Black of New York has sent to the legislature of that state an emergency message advising an immediate appropriation of \$1,000,000 as a contingent war fund.

Governor Black's message, in part, says: "Events are now transpiring of so grave and general import that the attention of every people is fixed upon our own. The crisis which our national government now meets involves those considerations which affect the future of the race. To aid the government by approval and support I recommend that before you adjourn you take such action as your wisdom shall decide upon, to provide against such urgent needs as the future may disclose."

## GERMANY HAS GRIEVANCE.

Demands Satisfaction From Spanish Government In Cannamaba Case.

Advices from Berlin state that Germany has commenced diplomatic representations to Spain relative to the Cannamaba case, and the German cruiser Geler, on her way to Bahia, has been ordered to get ready to proceed to Cuba if satisfaction is not quickly forthcoming.

The German version of the Cannamaba case is that some Cuban insurgents, during the night of March 18th, attacked a German refinery at Cannamaba (also written Cannamaber) belonging to the firm of Fischer & Schmidt, of Trinidad, province of Santa Clara. The insurgents are said to have rifled the safes, burned the buildings, killed four persons and wounded ten occupants of the refinery.

## DEAL IN COAL LANDS.

Eastern Money Flows Into the Birmingham, Ala., District.

Another big deal has been made in coal lands in the Birmingham, Ala.; district by the Ivy Leaf Coal and Coke Company. Walter Moore and a Carrollton, Ga., syndicate are the purchasers. The price paid is \$125,000. The property consists of 11,800 acres of coal land in the vicinity of the town of Cordova, in Walker county, a part of which is now mined under lease by the Ivy Leaf company. The Ivy Leaf company has been merged into the new organization.

## VESSELS OF WAR READY.

Stripped of Their Woodwork and Unnecessary Obstacles Removed.

Every preparation for action was taken by the warships at Key West Thursday. All woodwork was stripped off exposed spots and sent ashore. The wood pilot houses on the cruisers were taken down. To a certain extent interior woodwork was also removed and sent ashore. Even the sailors' wooden boxes were removed from the ships.

These precautions have been adopted to prevent so far as possible the danger of flying splinters in case of action. The officers sent their personal valuables and belongings to be stored on shore.

## SPAIN GIVEN LIMIT

To Answer President's Note Demanding Cuban Independence.

A Washington special says: The president assured a committee of senators who waited on him Wednesday afternoon that he had given Spain sixty hours to make reply to his note demanding independence. Spain certified her intention of responding within the prescribed time, thus allowing us to intercept the Spanish flotilla should the answer be unfriendly.

The Spanish government wired Wednesday afternoon asking this government if it would consider any other proposition to cease hostilities save by the plan of total independence. The president has wired that this country would not.

In anticipation of Spain's reply McKinley begged the republicans in congress to wait one more day. Republicans in the house promised him to do so on his pledge that the matter would be brought to a focus.

## THREE MORE WARSHIPS

Leave Spanish Naval Station Headed In the Direction of Havana.

A matter that caused a great deal of excitement among the officials at Washington Wednesday was the information that had been received from United States Minister Woodford of the departure westward of a formidable Spanish fleet of three vessels. Naturally there was a disposition to criticize the action of Spain in this particular in view of the many peace protestations that have been made by that country, and such action was regarded as anything but a friendly move.

The ships sailed from Carthagena, a Spanish naval station on the Mediterranean sea, and according to the minister's dispatch they were headed "westward." This, it is said, is undoubtedly the most formidable array of vessels that has departed from Spain in this direction during the present crisis, and the presumption generally held by the navy department officials is that they are headed ultimately for Havana, and will be first heard of at the Canaries.

## SPAIN IS ALL ALONE.

Not Probable That Any of the Powers Will Intervene.

It was stated Wednesday in a high diplomatic quarter at Washington that the Spanish government within the last ten days had addressed a note to the great powers of Europe fully setting forth the grave aspect of the controversy with the United States and, at least inferentially, suggesting that the time was now opportune for European influence to be exerted.

It is said this note has been the cause of activity at European capitals within the last few days in connection with Spanish American affairs. Up to the present time, however, no actual step toward mediation or intervention has been taken by any of the great powers, although there is little doubt that France stands ready to take the initiative if there is the slightest evidence that the United States government will view such a move with favor.

## SENATOR EARLE EULOGIZED.

Glowing Tributes Paid By Senators McLauren and Chandler.

The tributes to the late Senator Earle in the senate were of an unusual character. Senator McLauren made the opening memorial address.

He was followed by Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, whose eulogy to the dead South Carolinian was one of the most beautiful delivered in recent years. Senator Tillman closed. Other senators who spoke were Spooner, of Utah, Kenney, of Delaware, and McEnery, of Louisiana. Senator Clay, of Georgia, spoke for a half hour and his eulogy to Earle was full of pathos and a beautiful tribute to his life and character.

## WOULD KILL LEE FIRST.

Threat of Wholesale Butchery of Americans in Havana Reported.

The Ward steamer Vigilancia arrived at New York Wednesday from Havana. The Vigilancia brings no news of a special nature except that it was commonly reported in Havana that on a declaration of war on Spain being made by the United States a wholesale murder of Americans in Havana will take place and Consul General Lee would be the first to be assassinated.

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## BUYING CANNED MEAT.

Government Orders a Large Amount for Immediate Delivery.

The United States government has for several days been receiving bids in Chicago for army and navy supplies, and Friday placed an order for 10,000 cases of canned meats with a firm in that city.

So urgent were the terms of the contract that the first consignment was aboard the cars within a few hours. The shipment will be made to New York and about thirty cars will be required to carry the goods.

## AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Inspection of Fruit Trees.

The law passed by the Michigan Legislature at the request of the State Horticultural Society, or of a committee from them at the request of the leading fruit growers, seems to be giving very general satisfaction. All nursery-grown stock in the State must be inspected, and the grower licensed before he can offer it for sale. The presence of injurious insect pests, like the San Jose scale, or a fungous or supposedly contagious disease like the peach yellows, is sufficient reason for refusing a license until it has been eradicated. Even insects like the peach aphid must be destroyed before trees are sent out. Michigan is thus establishing a reputation as a good State to buy peach and other fruit tree from, as it long has been for the fruit itself. —Boston Cultivator.

## Protecting Vines.

To cover squash, melon and other cucurbitaceous plants with some kind of cloth is one of the best means of keeping off the beetles which destroy the vines. Any kind of gauzy material is suitable. There are several patent devices sold at seed stores, but a simple way is to take ordinary barrel hoops, cut them in halves and place the ends in the earth so that they cross one another at the top, forming two arches above the plants. Then spread a piece of cloth over them and cover the edges, which have to come down to the ground, with loose soil. This excludes the beetles and at the same time permits the entrance of sufficient air, sunshine and moisture. Cheese cloth is about as good as any other fabric for this purpose. —American Agriculturist.

## Insects by Mail.

When a farmer or gardener finds a new or strange insect destroying his crops, and does not know an effectual means of combating it, the best thing to do is to box up a few of the creatures and send them by mail to an entomologist. A couple of the insects themselves will furnish the entomologist more information concerning their real character than three or four pages of description.

In putting up the insects for shipment it is best to use a wooden or tin box, rather than one of pasteboard, which might easily be broken in transit, and allow the insects to escape. It is well to fill the box with the leaves of the plant upon which the insects were found; these serve as both food and packing. No breathing holes need be pierced in the box, as insects do not need much air.

Small insects may be corked up in a small glass bottle, which is then placed in an augehole in a block of wood, and the whole wrapped in stout paper. In sending soft insects or larvae, it is a good plan to fill the bottle with alcohol, to preserve them, instead of trying to send them alive. —John W. Lloyd, in Farm, Field and Fireside.

## New Sweet-Brier Roses.

We are pleased to learn from an English paper that the "sweet-brier" is coming into favor in that country, and that new varieties have been produced and are being offered at low prices, or at a shilling each. This would be about twenty-five cents American money, but who would begrudge that for a thrifty plant, with the fragrant foliage which by us in our youth was more prized than the colors of the most brilliant roses. But many of these have also beautiful blossoms. We should value them none the more highly because they were originated by a "real live lord." Lord Penzance, but it may serve as an additional recommendation to some.

The variety to which he has given his own name, Lord Penzance, has highly fragrant foliage, and the blossom is in pale tones of ecru. Some of them are a little lacking in the true sweet brier perfume but this is not. Lady Penzance is one of the most beautiful, of a metallic copper color at the tips of the petals, while the centre is bright golden yellow. Jennie Deans is semi-double, a brilliant carmine crimson in tint, and with flowers borne in fine clusters. Rose Bradwardins is a very robust, free-flowering plant, with exquisitely shaped blooms of the clearest pink. Lucy Bertram has the deepest crimson color of all, with a pure white centre. Meg Merrilles has also a fine crimson tint, with an abundance of berries in winter and a free, robust habit of growth, and Julie Mannering is pale pink, with richly scented foliage, a very pretty variety among the deeper-colored flowers.

We suspect the noble lord is an admirer of Sir Walter Scott's novels from his choice of names, but "a rose by another name would smell as sweet." We hope to see some of our nurserymen offering these, as the old-fashioned sweet brier was hardy in this latitude, and we should hope these hybrids to be. —American Cultivator.

## \$200,000 Worth of Gas.

The largest gasometer in the world is at East Greenwich, London. When full it contains 12,000,000 cubic feet of gas. It weighs 2200 tons, is 180 feet high, 200 feet in diameter, requires 1200 tons of coal to fill it with gas and cost nearly \$200,000.

## A Severed Heart.

A stab wound of the heart has just been sewed up by Dr. Rech, of Frankfurt, and the patient recovered.